

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NRC-05 /088 W
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O R 111215Z NOV 75 ZDK
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4509
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 6117

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 IMI 3)K

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR:
SUBJ: MBFR: OPTION III: APPROPRIATE DEFINITION OF COMMON
CEILING: SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 10

REF: A) USNATO 5959 DTG 041305Z NOV 75; B) MBFR VIENNA 514
DTG 051400Z NOV 75.

SUMMARY: AT THE NOV 10 SPC MEETING ON MBFR, BELGIUM JOINED
THE NETHERLANDS IN RAISING OBJECTIONS TO THE US COMPROMISE
PROPOSAL ON SEEKING AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON
CEILING IN PHASE I. BOTH COUNTRIES WANT THE AHG TO MAKE SOME
ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THIS TO THE EAST IN INITIAL PRESENTATION
OF OPTION III. AND BOTH ARE OPPOSED TO THE WAY THE US WISHES TO
REFER TO THE NEED FOR FURTHER NAC GUIDANCE IN THE
DRAFT POSITION PAPER, ON GROUNDS THAT THE LANGUAGE LEAVES
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OPEN THE WHOLE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE AHG SHOULD SEEK A
PHASE I UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE US COMMON CEILING

ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 8 BELOW

1. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD JUST EXAMINED THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN OPTION III. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OF OPTION III THEY WISH THE GUIDANCE AND POSITION PAPER TO BE VERY CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS. BELGIUM HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT A NEW AMBIGUITY HAS ENTERED THE POSITIION PAPER WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMON CEILING.HIS AUTHORITIES HAD CHARGED HIM TO SAY THAT NON-EQUIVOCATION ON THIS POINT WAS A CONDITION FOR SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN OPTION III. THE AMBIGUITY LIES IN THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE

OF PARA 3 OF TH POSITION PAPER,AND SPECIFICALLY THE WAY THE US PLACED THE PHRASE " AND SUBJECT TO LATER COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT" (SEE TEST IN PARA 3, REF A). THIS PHRASE LIMITED ANY AHG ACTION IN THIS AREA, AND THE PHRASE DID NOT SIMPLY LIMIT THE SEEKING OF AN UNDERSTANDING ON A "PRECISE" FIGURE. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO WEREDISAPPOINTED BY THE PLACING OF THIS PHRASE.

2. US REP (MOORE) NOTED THAT THE US WISHED THE PHRASE IN QUESTION IN ITS PRESENT POSITION BEDAUSE THE AHG COULD NOT ACTIVELY SEEK A COMMON UNDERSTANDING WITH THE EAST ON THE PRECISE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING UNTIL THE NAC HAS DECIDED THAT LEVEL.

3. NETHERLANDS REP REITERATED DUTCH VIEW THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD ON THE CONTRARY, INDICATE AT AN EARLY STAGE THAT WE ARE SEEKING UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMM ON CEILING IN PHASE I. HE NOTED

THAT THE US BELIEVES PARA 1 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE ALREADY SAYS ENOUGH ON THIS POINT IN REFERREING TO THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE DEFINI

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TION OF THE COMMON CEILING,AND IN CITING ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES FOR THE CEILING ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND ON THE GROUND PLUS AIR CEILING.

THE DUTCH FOUND IT HARD TO SEE WHY THE US COULD NOT GO ONE STEP FURTHER AND TELL THE OTHER SIDE WE ARE SEEKING UNDERSTANDING ON THE NUMERICAL LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I. US REP REPLIED THAT LATER IN PHASE I, AFTER THE NAC HAS APPROVED A PRECISE FIGURE

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FOR THE COMMON CEILING, AND THE AHG BEGINS ACTIVELY TO SEEK UNDERSTANDING ON IT, THE OTHER SIDE WOULD NOT LEGITIMATELY BE ABLE TO CLAIM IT WAS SURPRISED, IN VIEW OF WHAT IS ALREADY IN PARA 1 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, AND INVIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE ALLIES HAVE ALREADY OFFERED TO AGREE ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I (PLEANARY STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER24, 1974,). THUS GOING BEYOND WHAT IS PRESENTLY IN PARA 1 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE IS NOT NECESSARY, AND IT WOULD ALSO BE HARMFUL. US REP REITERATED THAT IT WOULD HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A NEW, COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT INTRODUCED WITH OPTION III, WOULD PRE- MARTURELY RAISE PHASE II ISSUES, AND WOULD LEAD TO EASTERN QUESTIONS ON THE PRECISE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING WHICH THE ALLIES COULD NOT ANSWER.

4. UK REP (BAILES) SAID THAT THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN PARA 3 OF THE POSITION PAPER ESTABLISHES THAT THE ALLIES WILL TRY TO GET AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE EAST ON THE PRECISE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I, AND THIS IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE UK. LONDON WAS FURTHER CONVINCED BY THE US ARGUMENTATION AT THE LAST MEETING THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO INCLUDE ANY SPECIAL STATEMENT TO THE EAST ON THIS POINT IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE. THE EAST WILL NOT BE SURPRISED WHEN THE AHG ACTIVELY BEGINS TO SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING ON A SPECIFIC FIGURE: TO TELL THE EAST IN ADVANCE THAT WE WERE GOING TO SEEK SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING IN PHASE I WOULD NOT HELP TACTICALLY, AND THE ALLIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER EASTERN QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT WOULD BE THE PRECISE FIGURE. SHE SAID THAT THE MEANING OF THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN PARA 3 OF THE POSITION PAPER WAS CLEAR, BUT THAT THE REFERENCE TO NAC GUIDANCE COULD PROBABLY BE IMPROVED, E.G., CHANGING THE PHRASE IN QUESTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS: (WITHOUT CHANGING ITS PLACE IN THE SENTENCE): "AND SUBJECT TO LATER COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THE PRECISE LEVEL TO BE SOUGHT".

5. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID FRG AGREED FULLY WITH BELGIUM THAT THE COMMON CEILING WAS THE KEY ISSUE. HOWEVER, FRG AGREED WITH THE US THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT PRESS THE ISSUE TOO STRONGLY AND TOO EARLY BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF BRINGING FORWARD PHASE II ISSUES PREMATURELY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FRG REMAINS FIRM ON THE MODALITIES OF THE COMMON CEILING, IN PARTICULAR ON THE NATURE OF PHASE II REDUCTION COMMITMENTS.

HE AGREED WITH UK REP THAT THE REFERENCE TO FURTHER COUNCIL GUIDANCE
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COULD PERHAPS BE A LITTLE CLEARER.

6. BELGIAN REP SUGGESTED PUTTING THE PHRASE ON FURTHER COUNCIL GUIDANCE AT THE END OF THE SENTENCE, SO IT WOULD ONLY MODIFY THE "PRECISE" LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING, THEREBY PERMITTING INCLUSION OF A SENTENCE IN PARA 1 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO INFORM THE OTHER SIDE THAT THE ALLIES WOULD SEEK UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I. THE COMMON CEILING WAS OF SUCH CENTRAL IMPORTANCE THAT THE ALLIES MUST MAKE THIS CLEAR IN INITIAL STATEMENTS TO THE EAST. BELGIAN REP TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD REGADED US INSERTION OF THE PHRASE "AND SUBJECT TO LATER COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT" AS LEAVING OPEN THE WHOLE

QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE AHG SHOULD SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE LEVEL OF THE COMMON CEILING IN PHASE I. HE MADE CLEAR THAT BELGIUM CONTINUES TO HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THE ALLIES CAN GAIN THE KIND OF UNDERSTANDING THEY WANT ON THE COMMON CEILING UNLESS THEY USE OPTION III FOR THIS PURPOSE.

7. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE FIRM POSITION TAKEN BY THE DUTCH, AND NOW THE BELGIAN AUTHORITIES, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT GUIDANCE AND POSITION PAPER. SWE SUGGEST
ADDING TO THE END OF PARA 1 IN THE DRAFT GUDDANCE THE TEXT IN
PARA 6, REF B. WE ALSO RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE UK REP'S
SUGGESTION FOR THE PHRASE ON NAC GUIDANCE IN THE PENULTIMATE
SENTENCE IN PARA 3 OF THE POSITION PAPER, SO THAT THE ENTIRE
SENTENCE WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: " IN THE COURSE OF PHASE I
NEGOITATIOS, AND SUBJECT TO LATER COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THE PRECISE
FIGURE TO BE SOUGHT, THE ALLIES SHOULD IN ADDITION SEEK TO COMMON
UNDERSTANDING WITH HE EAST AS TO THE PRECISE NUMERICAL LEVEL
OF THE COMMON CEILING TO BE REACHED FOLLOWING THE PHASE II
REDUCTIONS".

8. ACTION REQUESTED: IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 13: GUIDANCE IN LIGHT OF PARA 7 ABOVE.
STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO06117
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751189/abbrznbn.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) USNATO 5959 DTG 041305Z NOV 75; B) MBFR VIENNA 514 DTG 051400Z NOV 75.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: OPTION III: APPROPRIATE DEFINITION OF COMMON CEILING: SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 10
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR:
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO MBFR VIENNA
BONN
LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006